

REMARKS

Claims 1-3, 5, 7-10, 12-15, 17, 19-21 are pending. Applicant thanks the Examiner for indicating that claims 6 and 18 contain allowable subject matter. By this amendment, claims 6 and 18 are cancelled. Claims 1, 7, and 13 are amended to incorporate the allowable subject matter of claims 6 and 18. No new matter is introduced. Reconsideration and allowance of the claims in view of the above amendments and the remarks that follow are respectfully requested.

Entry of the above amendments is proper under 37 C.F.R. § 1.116 because the amendments (1) place the claims in better form for appeal if needed; and (2) do not introduce any elements requiring further search by the Examiner.

Claim Objections

Claims 6 and 18 are objected to because it is not clear how the “zeroing-out” approach would lead a packet destined to networked nodes such as those illustrated in Figure 8. The following illustrates the DAMP method with respect to Figure 8.

The DAMP data packet 811 has embedded the following four addresses: 192.168.0.10, 192.168.0.20, 15.235.10.5, and 15.5.2.35. Because the address 15.5.2.35 is not directly accessible below the network element 825 (which can access the addresses 192.168.0 and 15.235.10 of the network elements 835 and 837, respectively), the address 15.5.2.35 is zeroed out in the DAMP data packet 821.

Because the addresses 192.168.0.10, 192.168.0.20, and 15.235.10.5 are not directly accessible below the network element 851 (which can access the address 15.5.2.35 of the network device 851), the addresses 192.168.0.10, 192.168.0.20, and 15.235.10.5 are zeroed out in the DAMP data packet 822.

Because the address 15.235.10.5 is not directly accessible below the network element 835 (which can access the addresses 192.168.0.10 and 192.168.0.20 of the network devices 852 and 853, respectively), the address 15.235.10.5 is zeroed out in the DAMP data packet 831.

Because the addresses 192.168.0.10 and 192.168.0.20 are not directly accessible below the network element 837 (which can access the address 15.235.10.5 of the network device 854), the addresses 192.168.0.10 and 192.168.0.20 are zeroed out in the DAMP data packet 832.

Because the address 192.168.0.20 is not directly accessible below the network element 852 (which has the address 192.168.0.10), the address 192.168.0.20 is zeroed out in the DAMP data packet 841.

Because the address 192.168.0.10 is not directly accessible below the network element 853 (which has the address 192.168.0.20), the address 192.168.0.10 is zeroed out in the DAMP data packet 842.

Because all non-zero addresses (i.e., 15.235.10.5) are directly accessible below the network element 854 (which has the address 15.235.10.5), no address is zeroed out in the DAMP data packet 843.

The routing network element 825 contains a set of rules indicating what destination addresses are to be routed to which interface. These rules provide the knowledge to know which DAMP recipient addresses are reachable on which interface. By the converse, these rules also provide the knowledge to know which addresses are not reachable from an interface, and can be zeroed out when the packet is forwarded to the interface. Network switches (i.e., 815, 835, 837) can also have this knowledge by using their MAC address tables and by monitoring ARP packets.

In view of the above clarification, withdrawal of the claim objection is respectfully requested.

Claim Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. §103

Claims 1-3, 5, 7-10, 12-15, 17, and 19-21 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103 (a) over U.S. Patent 6,625,773 to Boivie et al. (hereafter Boivie). Claims 6 and 18 have been cancelled. The allowable subject matter of claims 6 and 18 have been incorporated into independent claims 1, 7, and 13. Therefore, amended claims 1, 7, and 13 are allowable.

Claims 2-3, 5, 8-10, 12, 14-15, 17, and 19-21 are allowable at least because they depend from their respective allowable independent claims and for the additional features they recite.

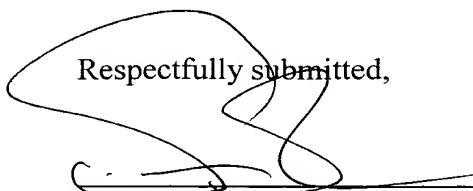
Withdrawal of the rejection of claims 1-3, 5, 7-10, 12-15, 17, and 19-21 under 35 U.S.C. §103 (a) is respectfully requested.

In view of the above remarks, Applicant respectfully submits that the application is in condition for allowance. Prompt examination and allowance are respectfully requested.

Should the Examiner believe that anything further is desired in order to place the application in even better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact Applicant's undersigned representative at the telephone number listed below.

Respectfully submitted,

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